

# THE COLOURFUL GROSBEAKS

## #10 EVENING GROSBEAK



TWO MALES ON BIRD FEEDER

The Evening Grosbeak, *Coccothraustes vespertinus*, is a large North American finch. In the past, it was treated in a genus of its own as *Hesperiphona vespertina*, but is now usually placed in the same genus as the Eurasian Hawfinch, *C. Coccothraustes*.

Their breeding habitat is the coniferous and mixed forests across Canada and the western mountainous areas of the United States and Mexico. The nest is built on a horizontal branch or in a fork of a tree.



IMMATURE

The Evening Grosbeak is 18.5cm in length. Adult birds have a short black tail, black wings and a large pale bill. The adult male has a bright yellow forehead and body; the head is brown and there is a large white patch on the wing. The adult female is mainly olive-brown, greyer on the underparts and with white patches in the wings.



Photo: "Mdf"



MAP: Alois Staudacher

They forage in trees and bushes, and sometimes on the ground. The mainstay of their diet is seeds, berries and insects.

In the non breeding season they often gather in feeding flocks.

The range of this bird has greatly expanded eastwards in historical times, this is probably the result of extensive plantings of the Manitoba Maple, *Acer negundo*, and other maples around farms and the large number of bird feeders provided by humans in the winter months.



MANITOBA MAPLE

Photo: Sten Porse

R.V.C. with help from Wikipedia

